

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown in the marked-up copy to read as follows:

--3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said bioreactor is a fluidized bed type reactor comprising a fluidized bed section within which the immobilized microorganism is disposed, and a liquid circulating section for extracting a part of a fermentation liquid from a downstream side of said fluidized bed section and returning said part of fermentation liquid to an upstream side of said fluidized bed section.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said immobilized microorganism is one which non-flocculent yeast is immobilized to a chitosan type immobilizing carrier.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said non-flocculent yeast is a non-flocculent liquor yeast, and wherein said fermentation product is a liquor.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said non-flocculent yeast is non-flocculent beer yeast, and wherein said fermentation product is a malt alcohol beverage.

8. (Amended) A malt alcohol beverage made by the method according to claim 1.--